

PROOF OF MARY E. MAXWELL'S PARENTS

By Lloyd Fowler

The Court Houses of Putnam County, TN and the Court Houses of Jackson County, TN have both burned down a combined total of 4 times. Putnam County, TN, which came out of Jackson County, TN, suffered from Court House fires in the 1860's and in 1898. Jackson County, TN has suffered from Court House fires in 1872 and 1926. The only proof that I have for Mary E. Maxwell's maiden name is her tombstone. On her tombstone in Putnam County, TN, a part of the county, which was once Jackson County, TN, it states, "Mary E. Shanks Wife/ Of David Maxwell/ Born FEB 13 1826/Died MAY 9 1888." Mary E. Maxwell was obviously born as Mary E. Shanks. Only one man, Simon Shanks, ever lived in Jackson County, TN who would be old enough to be her father. The other Shanks from Jackson/Putnam County, TN were her brothers. Simon Shanks was from Virginia, which the 1830 Fauquier Census Proves. In 1830 there is a man by the name of William Shanks who is living in Wilson County, TN, one county over from Jackson County, TN. In 1840, Simon Shanks is in Jackson County, TN and William Shanks is still in Wilson County, TN. In 1850 Margaret (Maddux) Shanks shows up in Jackson County, TN as the head of household, which shows Simon Shanks died some time between 1840-1850. The 1850 Jackson County, TN Census says that Margaret Shanks was born in Virginia. The 1850 Census in Wilson County, TN shows that William Shanks was born in Tennessee. Where the two different Shanks families were born is the distinguishing characteristic between the two unrelated Shanks families.

The 1860 Putnam County, TN Census shows that Mary E. Maxwell, wife of D.W. Maxwell, was born in Virginia. The Simon Shanks Censuses of 1830 Fauquier County, Virginia and 1840 Jackson County, TN both have a girl in Mary E. Maxwell's age bracket based on her age in the 1860 Census and her D.O.B. on her tombstone. This proves that she is the daughter of Simon Shanks and Margaret Maddux. All other Shanks in Kentucky and Tennessee live hundreds of miles away from Wilson County, TN and Jackson County, TN. Mary E. Maxwell is buried right where Simon and Margaret Shanks show up on Census Records and she was born in Virginia where her parents were born, not Tennessee where William Shanks, the 2nd closest Shanks, was born.

Lloyd Fowler

December 21, 2009

Note: Lloyd Fowler has been accepted by the S.A.R. for membership using the above analysis. 26 March 2010

Lloyd writes: "My S.A.R. application is finally approved!!! They were impressed with my research on that "gap" between the generations of Simon Shanks and Mary Elizabeth Maxwell. This is great news for extending the genealogy of Sgt. William Maddux."
26 March 2010.

Lloyd Fowler's theory is further proven by the obituary of David Wood Maxwell Jr. It states that David Wood Maxwell Jr. is the son of David Wood Maxwell Sr. & Bessie (Mary Elizabeth) Shanks.

DAVID WOOD MAXWELL JR. OBT.

b. October 27, 1867, Putnam Co., TN – d. December 14, 1950
md Margaret "Maggie" Emily Gibson
b. 7 November 1870 – d. 12 May 1907

Funeral services for D. W. Maxwell, 83, were held Friday afternoon at the Baxter Methodist Church with Rev. G. C. McIlwain, the Rev. J. L. Haile, the Rev. E. M. Nunally, the Rev. G. C. Selph, the Rev. Carson Whitaker, and Dr. H. L. Upperman officiating. Burial was in the Maxwell Cemetery.

The 7 sons, Virgil, Dave, Ewin, Paschal, Charlie, Burley, and Junior Maxwell served as pallbearers.

Mr. Maxwell died Thursday at his home in the Arnold's Chapel community after a short illness.

A retired farmer, he was the son of David Wood and Bessie (Mary Elizabeth) Shanks Maxwell. He was a native of Putnam County and a member of the Methodist Church. He was married to Miss Margaret Emery Gibson who died in 1907. Eight children were born to this marriage. He later married Miss Dona Wilkerson, who survives.

In addition to Mrs. Maxwell and the 7 sons, survivors include 7 daughters, Mrs. Sam Taylor, Clarkrange, Mrs. Vinnie Myatt, Mrs. Ella Davis, Miss Laura Maxwell, all of Baxter, Mrs. Estelle Birdwell, Gainesboro, Mrs. Clifton Howell, Nashville, and Miss Margaret Maxwell, Detroit.

Herald, TN: 21 December 1950, front page.

*See Shanks files at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>